

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3171
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2004
IMPACT OF MINING ON RIDGE AREA
Bhadana Shri Avtar Singh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether ridge area of Delhi is drying up due to mining operations and excessive drawing of ground water in ridge area of Haryana;
- (b) if so, whether Supreme Court/High Courts had ordered to develop a dense forest area or green belt there in order to maintain its natural beauty;
- (c) if so, the details of the action being taken by the Government in pursuance of the Court's orders; and
- (d) the action taken by the Government against the persons found guilty, if any, for not complying with the court's orders?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

- (a) Central Ground Water Board has reported that in the Delhi Ridge area bordering Haryana, the water level has shown an increasing trend after stoppage of pumping from mines located on the Haryana side within 5 kms. of Delhi-Haryana border.
- (b) The Supreme Court in its order in M.C. Mehta Vs. Union of India matter has directed to maintain the Ridge in its Pristine Glory.
- (c) The action taken to conserve the Delhi Ridge inter-alia include:
 - (i) constitution of the Delhi Ridge Management Board,
 - (ii) Notification of 7777 hectares of Ridge as Reserve Forest under Section 4 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and
 - (iii) Notification of 4206 hectares of uncultivated surplus Gram Sabha land situated in Southern Ridge for vesting with Forest Department of Government of NCT of Delhi for afforestation purpose.
- (d) The action taken in this regard by the Government of NCT of Delhi inter-alia include:
 - (i) seizure of trucks and implements and
 - (ii) filing of reports in appropriate courts.